

## **The Fraser Basin Council: Advancing Sustainability in the Georgia Basin Through Collaborative Leadership**

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The Fraser Basin Council (FBC) was established in 1997 as a non-governmental, non-profit society that brings diverse interests together to find solutions to complex inter-jurisdictional issues in the Fraser River Basin - an area that covers one third of British Columbia and generates 80% of the province's economy. The lower Fraser Basin coincides with the eastern part of the Georgia Basin. The Fraser Basin Council's main goal is to secure a river basin where social well-being is supported by a vibrant economy and sustained by a healthy environment - a true reflection of sustainability. David Marshall, the Fraser Basin Council's Executive Director, will discuss FBC's unique collaborative governance model and present some of the Council's achievements and current initiatives. The FBC was founded on the belief that the major sustainability challenges facing the Basin cannot be addressed effectively by any one jurisdiction. FBC is an innovative institutional mechanism where representatives from the four orders of Canadian government - First Nations, Local, Provincial and Federal - work together with interests from the private sector and civil society. In the past seven years, the FBC has demonstrated that a more effective, potent and sustainable kind of leadership emerges when diverse interests coalesce around core values, and when consensus and joint action are chosen over confrontation and inaction. Since its formation, the FBC has played a leadership role in more than 50 action-oriented projects. The initiatives range from projects with Basin-wide implications to those focused on sustainability challenges in specific regions or watersheds of the Basin.